

NOTICE

Municipal Services Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 23th, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Due to social distancing guidelines this meeting will be conducted via web conference at: meet.google.com/wje-xuct-mbr. The public may also use the teleconference option at +1 (315)-801-9407 then enter conference pin: 863 831 330#

Minutes

1. Call meeting to order.

Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm

2. Roll call.

Committee Chair Jim Brooks, Gene Lewis & Ben Ladick were in attendance. Also present were: Amy Wanek, Brian Berquist, Dale Roberts, Kerry Lindroth, Mayor Bill Hurlley, Chad Renly, Nick Bubolz & Jason Sergeant.

3. Civility Reminder.

4. Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Ladick/Lewis Motion Passed 3-0

5. Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes as printed from the January 26th, 2021 regular Municipal Services meeting.

Ladick/Lewis Motion Passed 3-0

6. Citizen Appearances other than agenda items.

- None

7. Review of sanitary sewer billing adjustments. (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)

8. Director's Report

a. Parks and Recreation Report

Renly reported that the Park Board Committee meeting discussed how the Boy Scout ice fishing event went. One comment that came up was that it appeared that snowmobiles may have been used to move ice shanties on and off the ice. Renly stated that operating snowmobiles within the city limits is currently not allowed. Renly said he didn't think this has been a common occurrence with the existing signs that are up but staff will keep an eye on it if issues do occur.

b. Emergency Action Plan Addition - Load Shedding (Placeholder)

No additional details at this time.

c. Water Rate Case

Renly stated that Brooks, Julie and he had a meeting with Johnson Block to discuss the water rate case. Johnson Block stated that the plan is to have a two step increase with step one increasing the water rate to 8.73% and step two would be very similar but dependent on water retirement numbers from the upcoming Liberty St project in

2022. Renly said that he will be working with Town & Country to come up with those numbers.

d. Water Complaints

Renly received two water complaints from residents recently. One was an email regarding Fluoride and it's negative effects on the body. Renly said that he responded and let the resident know that we have a level of fluoride in the water of 0.70 mg/l which is the recommended amount to be beneficial in preventing cavities yet has not been shown to have any negative effects. Renly told the resident that 0.50 mg/l of that 0.70 that are allowed are naturally occurring from the aquifer from which we draw our water. Renly gave the resident several links to information regarding the safety and benefits of fluoride in the water. The resident was thankful for the information and no longer had a complaint.

The other complaint was a resident who lived on Cherry St who had experienced discolored water. Renly recommended that since they had not received any other calls from the area and did not know of any events which would have stirred sediment from the mains, that they check their water appliances and pipes in the house as well as their water lateral which had a high likelihood of being 100+ years old. The resident had reported their complaint to the PSC and Renly responded with all of the information that they had requested. Renly expected to receive a response back from the PSC within the next few days.

e. Apprenticeship Program Audit

Due to a recent request for the addition of another apprenticeship program for the City to operate the DWD had requested an audit of our existing practices. There were several new requirements regarding the addition of an AAEOO pledge posted to be placed in view of newly applying or interested apprentices. The City is also required to post a non-discrimination pledge in it's buildings as well as online. Lastly, anyone who has frequent interaction with apprentices is required to watch an anti-harassment video, the viewers are to be logged on a spreadsheet and sent back to the DWD as completed. The Audit will take place towards the end of March or in April which will go over the City's past practices in the Apprenticeship program.

f. AMI Project (Placeholder)

(1) Current AMI count remaining- Elec: **0** Water: **281**

No Change

g. Lake Leota Dam Repair Update (Placeholder)

- **Scope Adjustment**

Renly said that he and Jewel are currently in discussions to request additional funds from the DNR for the grant. This would cover the possibility of additional costs associated with the new addition of the gabion basket wall replacement as well as possible hidden damage behind previous repairs that were made in the past.

h. West Side Park Progress (Placeholder)

Renly reported that the Park Board had approved the RFQ to go to bid. The submittal deadline will be March 22nd.

i. Bridge Inspection (Placeholder)

No new information to provide at this time.

j. Municipal Services building expansion progress report.

Renly stated that the plans are coming along and will be at 90% completion within the next few weeks.

k. 5G Installation – Update

Renly said that the new section 106 of the City’s ordinance covering the installation of 5G small cell nodes was approved by Council as well as the Fee Resolution. Due to the fact that the motion was missed on the last agenda the MLA will be going for approval at the March 9th Council meeting and the public hearing will be held at the Planning Committee meeting on March 2nd.

- **Fiber Attachment - Existing Agreement / New Agreement**

Renly stated that the City’s only existing copy that he was able to find was a joint use agreement from 1959 with AT&T. The agreement is very outdated. Renly reached out to several other communities as well as Rock Energy to see what they were currently using. After going through the agreements with Mark Kopp they had decided to use the agreement from Rock Energy and adapt it for our use. Renly said they he and Mark were currently working on it’s revision and would have it up for review at the next MSC meeting.

- **Pole Attachment Fee**

Renly stated that currently the City’s existing annual pole attachment fee is \$7 per pole per year but would like to recommend a fee of at least \$10 per pole. More discussion and information will be available at the next meeting.

9. City Engineer Report

a. Sub-division / Development Update

Berquist said that they are currently working on obtaining asbuilts for the newest areas but otherwise has no new information.

b. Inflow and Infiltration Study (Placeholder)

No new information at this time, Berquist stated that there’s a possibility that rain and melting snow may give us a chance to continue the study but will need to see how it goes.

c. Roadway construction & other project updates. (Placeholder)

- **First & Second St Projects**

Berquist said that the bid opening for the projects will be held on February 25th at 2pm. Preliminary assessment hearings will be held in April and the contract recommendations for the projects will be made in March.

- **6th & Badger Roundabout**

No new information

- **Sidewalks**

Berquist said that the sidewalk notices have been sent out to residents that are going to be getting new sidewalk during the project.

10. Administrative Staff’s Report

a. Non-Collectable Utility Accounts Review (Placeholder)

Brooks state that the PSC is expected to meet on March 11th to discuss putting an end to the moratorium which would give customers approximately one month to have a DPA in place before disconnections would begin. Mayor Hurtley had asked if

the uncollectable accounts had been sent to state collections. Renly stated that he would need to discuss that with Donna for more information.

- **Account Write-offs Review**

Brooks stated that in order to approve the amount listed in the write-offs that a motion would need to be made. Renly stated that he will place a motion on the agenda for next month.

- b. DPA Policy Amendment - Document Review**

The Committee had no issues with the documents and are ok to proceed.

11. WPPI

- a. Amy Wanek – ESR Report**

Wanek talked about the grant that the Evansville High School had applied for. Currently there is no word on who was awarded the grants but she will be looking into the results and will have a report at the March meeting. Wanek also discussed creating bill inserts and placing information online warning customers of unrealistic financial projects for solar projects. Waken said that WPPI is working on creating a video of the Evansville Lineworkers reading “If I Were A Lineworker” for the Mystery Reader Day which was shared with the Evansville Elementary 1st graders.

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

- a. Energy Independence Meeting Update**

Brooks began by saying that the Energy Independence team had met on February 4th and discussed setting goals of becoming carbon neutral. They will be working on creating a resolution that will commit the City to long term goals of being carbon neutral by 2030-2035. The resolution is expected to be ready in April.

Brooks stated that the APPA Legislative Rally is next week and that he had sent out the topics that will be discussed. Brooks also mentioned that March 11th is the Public Power Utility Governance Conference. WPPI has recently sent out information about a new leadership series that is designed for utility managers and directors and will consist of 4 sessions over two years.

14. Upcoming Meeting Date, March 30th, 2021 at 5:00 pm

15. Adjourn

Ladick/Lewis at 5:53pm

James Brooks, Committee Chair

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices before meeting commences. If you have any special accessibility issues please contact Evansville City Hall at 608-882-2266 prior to the scheduled meeting. Thank you.